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SNIA - Storage Networking Industry Association: Dictionary P

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panic

A colloquial term describing a software program's reaction to an incomprehensible state. In an operating system context, a panic is usually a system call or unexpected state that causes the system to abruptly stop executing so as to eliminate the possibility that the cause of the panic will cause further damage to the system, applications, or data.

parallel access array

CONTEXT [Storage System]

A disk array model in which data transfer and data protection algorithms assume that all member disks operate in unison, with each participating in the execution of every application I/O request. A parallel access array is only capable of executing one I/O request at a time. True parallel access would require that an array's disks be rotationally synchronized. In actual practice, arrays approximate parallel access behavior. Ideal RAID Level 2 and RAID Level 3 arrays are parallel access arrays. *cf.* independent access array

parallel (transmission)

Simultaneous transmission of multiple data bits over multiple physical lines.

parity disk

CONTEXT [Storage System]

In a RAID Level 3 or 4 array, the single disk on which the parity check data is stored.

parity RAID

CONTEXT [Storage System]

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port

A port can be an entrance to or exit from a storage network. It can be a connectic
point for a peripheral device or an application program. It can be logical, physical
both. Examples include Fibre Channel Port, Internet Protocol Suite Port and SCS
Port.

CONTEXT [Fibre Channel]

A Fibre Channel port provides physical interface attachment to other Fibre Chann
ports. A Fibre Channel port includes the transmitter, receiver and associated logi
at either end of a link within a Node. There may be multiple Ports per Node. Eac
Port is assigned a unique Port_ID, which is the Fibre Channel address used for
routing. Each port is identified by a unique World Wide Port Name (WW Port
Name) Ports can be implemented on Host Bus Adapters (HBAs), Storage Adapte
(SAs), routers, switches, bridges, gateways, etc.

Fibre Channel ports may have many different logical operating modes, such as
N_Port, NL_Port, F_Port, FL_Port, E_Port and B_Port.

CONTEXT [TCP/IP/Ethernet]

Ethernet uses Media Access Control identifiers (commonly referred to as MAC
addresses) to distinguish between separate logical channels connecting two port:
on the same physical transport network interface.

The Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and the User Datagram Protocol (UDP)
the Internet Protocol Suite use logical ports as communication endpoints, includin
client-side user ports (source of application requests) and server-side well-known
ports for service access. Examples of well-known server-side ports include:
Internet Small Computer Systems Interface (iSCSI – 3260)
File Transfer Protocol (FTP Data – 20, FTP Control – 21)
Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP – 25)
Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP – 80)
Network File System (NFS - 2049)

CONTEXT [SCSI]

A SCSI Bus physical port provides a means that allows a device to connect the
drivers and receivers to the SCSI parallel bus cable.

A SCSI logical port is either a SCSI initiator port or a SCSI target port; it is the
logical entity that originates or processes SCSI commands (including data transfe
and task management requests. For example, the SCSI initiator port enables SC
operations to flow to and from a server operating system device driver. The SCSI
target port enables access to a LUN giving access to a disc drive or access to a
range of LUNs configured and implemented through the physical target port on a
storage controller.

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